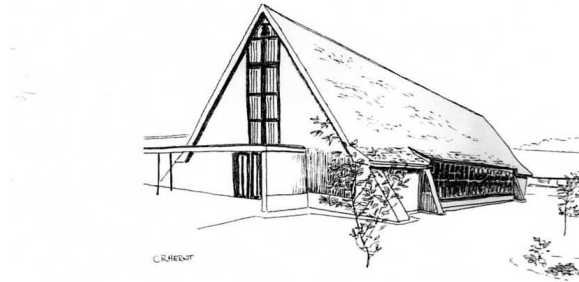


# KIRK OF THE HOLY ROOD

## KIRK MESSENGER



*MAY YOU ALWAYS BE JOYFUL IN YOUR UNION WITH THE LORD, I SAY IT AGAIN –  
REJOICE. (PHILIPPIANS 4 V4)*

## SEPTEMBER 2017

- 2 Diary Dates / Parish Register
- 3 Outreach / Senior Members Register
- 4 Ecumenical Holiday Club
- 5 Womens Association
- 6 Rev Colin Mailer, Locum Minister
- 7 Nominating Committee/Prayer Coordinator
- 8 Finance
- 9 A Light in my Life – Mrs. Jessie Y.L. Mailer
- 10 Mr. Arthur Priestly, Interim Moderator
- 11 “The Eagle Story” – Mr. Arthur Priestly



## DIARY DATES

**Sunday 17th September**  
Communion 11am & 6.15pm  
**Sunday 3rd September**  
Speaker from our Harvest charity "Maggies"  
**Sunday 24th September**  
Harvest Thanksgiving  
**Saturday 11th November**  
Christmas Fayre  
Church Hall 10am – 12noon  
**Sunday 12th November**  
Remembrance Sunday  
**Saturday 25th November**  
Senior Members 40th Dinner  
**Sunday 3rd December**  
Communion 11am & 6.15pm

### Parish Register

The members' deaths since the last magazine are:

Mr. Jim Henry, 46 Earn Court

Mrs. Lorna McPhee, 28 Hamilton Road

Mr. Dick Semple, 97 Almond Street

**Outreach**

Our chosen charity to support at Harvest is Maggie’s in the year that saw a new centre open at the Fort Valley Royal Hospital. Maggie’s provides free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer and their family and friends, following the ideas about cancer care originally laid out by Maggie Keswick Jencks.

The first Maggie’s Centre opened in Edinburgh in 1996 and since then Maggie’s has continued to grow, with 20 Centres at major NHS cancer hospitals in the UK and abroad.

The collecting jars are available and should be returned with your donation on Harvest Sunday 24th September. On that day the Outreach members invite you to join them in the hall after the service for a bowl of soup etc., and a chat. Our chance to say thank you for your continued support of our charity appeals.

**Betty Sutherland**

**Senior Member Welfare Committee Register**

Once again it is that time of year when we update the Senior Members Register. If there are any members of the church who think they are eligible for their names to be placed on the register please complete the attached form and return to Bill Fenton or your elder.

Qualifications are as follows:

Ladies 60 or over and retired, couples qualify if the husband is 65 and retired.

Name.....

Address.....

Tel No.....

[The Annual Dinner this year will be on Saturday 25th November at 1pm in the Church Hall as usual.](#)

More details will appear in the Sunday intimation sheet nearer the time.

**Bill Fenton.**

## “Guardians of Ancora”

### Ecumenical Holiday Club

This was a new venture for the churches in Grangemouth and was run under the auspices of Scripture Union, Scotland.

The Holiday Club was held in Abbotsgrange Church from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August through till Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 10am to 12 noon.

The theme was “Guardians of Ancora” which contained a different Bible Story every day and a daily Treasure Hunt relating to the story.

Lots of singing choruses with actions as well as making crafts.

The group leaders, story tellers and craft makers were mostly from Grangemouth churches. The Ministers took an active part in presenting the activities.

The children had a great time and it is hoped to make plans for future holiday clubs. Louise, Neil and Kevin from Scripture Union gave us useful support throughout the week.

Each day the “Tower of Ancora” was gradually lit up and by Friday the Guardians of Ancora had fulfilled their challenge to bring the “Light” back into the city.

Memory verse for the week was:

“Love the Lord your God with all your Heart, Soul and Mind”

Matthew 22 v 37

**Mary Wood, Group Leader**

## Womens Association

A warm welcome is extended to everyone who would like to come along on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Our Syllabus contains a good variety of different topics and events.

Starting with **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**, our Welcome Night and Enrolment followed by a quiz.

**27<sup>th</sup> September** is the Dedication Service for the Women's Association and will be conducted by Rev Colin Mailer with members of the Association taking the readings and prayers. After the Service we meet in the hall for a short talk and our welcome cup of tea.

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**, we are looking forward to our Opening Concert when our guests will be the "Bo'ness Belles" who are a group of ladies whose entertainment is excellent and funds raised from their concert nights are donated to various local charities.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**- Prince Charles Walk with guest speaker Gregor Ewing.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** – A Devotional Evening with Rev Kay Brown

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** – A talk from a representative from the charity "Kidney Kids"

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** – We have booked tickets for an outing to Falkirk Town Hall to see "All Shook Up" a musical show which is produced and presented by the Falkirk Bohemians. Travel by coach is arranged.

I hope this gives you an insight into the syllabus with a St Andrews Night, Christmas Party and Carol Concert some of the events still to happen before the end of the year.

As an organization who play a part in the life and discipleship of our church may our guests feel welcome and enjoy the friendship we extend to them.

A Friend is one who strengthens you with prayers  
Blesses you with love  
and encourages you with hope.

**Mary Wood, President**  
Tel; 01324 870520

## **The sun still rises**

Harold Wilson, twice Prime Minister of this land, said “a week is a long time in politics”. We know what he meant. Much can happen over which we have no influence although we may have our thoughts.

Take recent events for example. World-record prices have been paid to allow footballers to move from one club to another; a show business giant in this country has died; world-famous athletes have retired, not unbeaten but unbowed; and millions of words have been written and spoken to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the untimely death of a one-time member of the Royal family. Yet the sun still rises in the morning.

Such was the precept by which I, and my newspaper industry colleagues over the years, operated. Yesterday’s news is history. The world moves on. That’s the position we find ourselves now in at Kirk of the Holy Rood. We have to adapt to changing circumstances.

It’s coming on for 50 years, well come February, since I was ordained as an auxiliary minister. I was asked to return to that congregation when the Kirk Session proposed to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the very day of the ordination as an elder gentleman who had been Session Clerk when I was ordained and admitted to that Kirk Session.

I was invited to research and then present a “This is your life” cameo at a social gathering in the church hall following due tribute during morning worship earlier at the church.

I turned to the back numbers of *The Falkirk Herald* to assist my research and discovered, apart from the price of commodities in the immediate post-war years, that 50 years to the week earlier the Fathers and Bretheren of the Falkirk and Linlithgow Presbytery had been advised that a sole nominee had been called to the then St Andrew’s Parish Church in Upper Newmarket Street, Falkirk. Presbytery was further advised there had been 90 applicants. Ninety! Times have changed, haven’t they?

But as a favourite hymn of mine puts it: “God is working His purpose out”, and we can but pray that the congregation of the Kirk of the Holy Rood will not have to wait too long before that page in a new chapter is turned.

Your friend and minister - **Colin**

### **Nominating Committee**

This is a group made up of 11 church members and Arthur Priestly Interim moderator Falkirk Presbytery. Convener Eleanor Neilson and Clerk Mary Watson.

We have been meeting now for quite a few Sundays after church getting the advert ready for a minister. This is now in Life and Work September issue and the Parish Profile which is on KHR's web site.

This has been a very exciting time and everyone has worked well together, starting and closing our meetings in prayer.

We feel up to now blessed with our time together and would ask YOU the congregation to keep this vacancy in your prayers for a response to our advert but with a sincere interest in becoming our minister to this welcoming church.

Thank you.

**Convener, Eleanor Neilson**

### **Prayer**

This month I find myself spending more and more time in my allotment as everything is in full bloom and saying I am ready to be eaten!

This has become my biblical garden in the sense the peace I get there and the time to listen.

“Lord you made all this beauty around us forgive us when we become blind to this and take your creation for granted.

We love to receive flowers from friends, family and our church they make us feel better and cheer us up.

Flowers can say so many different things without anyone saying anything like us each one is unique.

When flowers are put into a vase we see their purpose, like us your people coming together in your church you see this in us.

Thank you for the dutiful gardeners attending the church grounds especially keeping the grass in check.

Lord for the farmers who each season give their time to growing the grain in the vast fields that provide us with bread and cereal.

Thank you Father for giving us the opportunity to grow flowers, vegetables, fruit and plants in pots, gardens and allotments that we give back all the glory to you in your precious name we give thanks.”

**Prayer Co-coordinator, Eleanor Neilson**

## **Finance**

### Accounts

Our accounts have been attested by Presbytery, and lodged with 121 George Street, and with OSCR (Charities regulator). It seems strange that I am writing this in August for accounts which ended in December, but I guess there are many guidelines to be following and regulations to be adhered to. I am just relieved that the process is over for this year, even though it will all start again in January.

### Income

We have had some very helpful additional income since the last magazine was issued. The Womens Association handed over a cheque for £1600, to be put to church funds. I have been astonished every year by their generosity, but this year's donation was higher than ever. I am very grateful to the Association, as their donation is a significant element of the annual income of our church.

### Shop

I'd like to thank everybody who helped with the shop. A heck of a lot of work was done up front, to collect and price the many donations. Similar hard work, along with huge dollops of patience and diplomacy, was required from those serving in the shop, and of course much work in the background, with re-stocking each day, banking the all-important takings, and clearing up at the end.

The amazing amount of £2637.80 was raised, and I would like to thank all who contributed their time or talent to help our cause. It is probably remiss of me to single anybody out, but I have to say particular thanks to Allyson Black, who embraced the challenge of taking on a huge amount of work. Sadly, I was on holiday for the majority of the time that the shop was open, and as a result I was unable to help at all really. It made me feel very humble to see and hear about the quiet unseen work going on. For all those involved, you should all feel proud that you contributed to such a huge success.

### Day of Christian Giving

This year's total was £2389. Thank you sincerely for your contributions to the church funds. I appreciate very much that you all continue to support the church with your weekly / monthly offerings and are always generous when we have fund-raising activities like coffee mornings. The fact that the Day of Christian Giving is also so well supported is a testament to your generosity. As Treasurer, it is heartening to see such a positive response.

### Expenditure

This year was supposed to be the year where we settled down again, after the major expense of the rewiring, where despite very welcome support from both Presbytery and 121, we still had to contribute a significant amount of our funds to the project. Unfortunately, with the departure of our minister, we are duty-bound to bear the cost of significant work to the manse with refurbishment, repairs and redecoration all eating into the budget. While great thanks are due to Ann Fenton, Norman Martin and the property team for keeping the costs to a minimum, there have still been some hefty bills. We are fortunate that our Fabric Fund can help with this, but will still need to be wary.

### Charity



Given that our congregation is very generous to us, and the general public also support our fund-raising activities, it is important that we also give something back to the community. Over and above our Outreach programme we have made donations to Grangemouth Community Care of £220 and to Scripture Union of £100 to support their very worthwhile work.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your contributions to Kirk of the Holy Rood whether it be your time, your talent or your financial assistance.

Best Wishes

Stuart

**Stuart Blackwood, Treasurer**

### **A Light in my Life**

Thirteen years have passed since my husband last acted as locum minister at the Kirk of the Holy Rood. I worshipped elsewhere at that time and thus mine was not a familiar figure around KHR.

Since Colin returned to KHR this summer, and me with him this time. I have been impressed by the light which envelops the church. I had forgotten just how bright and welcoming it was, and is.

It's modern architecture, and "Please join us" windows offer a pleasant contrast to the dimly lit churches we all know, monuments to another age.

At KHR I find peace and tranquility emanating from the moment I walk in, with the tasteful art in the vestibule and around the church – and the sense of brightness all around. And the stunning floral art in the chancel Sunday by Sunday, God's creations presented in a manner which I find so attractive.

I thank all those who contribute to this peace and welcome to worship.

**Jessie Y.L. Mailer**

### **WANTED - Old Printer Cartridges**

Ian Burgess is looking for old printer cartridges.

If you have any of the following types of cartridges he would be glad to take them. The cartridge types are:

Canon PG510 and Canon CL511



Dear Friends,

At the time I write this, we have moved slightly closer to the conclusion to this vacancy. Don't get too excited! I did use the word "slightly", but nevertheless the Kirk Session and the Nominating Committee have done some sterling work and we do have an advertisement for a new minister in both the paper and the online versions of Life and Work along with contact information on the Church of Scotland website and we have prepared a Parish Profile which potential new ministers can

read before deciding whether or not to apply for this Charge. If you want to read it yourself and you have internet access either at home or at the Library you can find it on our website [www.khrgrangemouth.org](http://www.khrgrangemouth.org) and you just need to click the link on the Home page where it offers you the chance to read information about the vacancy. I hope that we will soon be hearing from potential new ministers but don't be dismayed if responses are not very fast. I have just been to the Induction of a new minister at a church which has been vacant for 7 years! That is certainly unusual and the more normal timescales are about 2 years with some being filled within 6 months.

During this vacancy we are very fortunate to have the services of Colin Mailer as our Locum Minister and I'd just like to say a couple of things about Colin which he may not want to say himself. Colin is paid by the congregation to be our Locum two days a week plus the Service on a Sunday and he is allowed six weeks off during the year. We all see Colin in the pulpit on a Sunday, but, like every minister, Colin responds to the needs of the congregation and parish and may often work much more than his contractual hours. I'm sure he would value your prayers as he goes about the work of ministry at KHR.

Paul tells the people of Ephesus to pray for each other in Chapter 6 of his letter to them, from verse 18 onwards. It's worth reading to verse 20, and trying to carry out that request. May God help us in all that we try to do together in His Name.

**Arthur Priestly**  
**Interim Moderator**

### **THE EAGLE STORY** – another lesson from the birds

Why is the Eagle used as a symbol in so many churches and cathedrals? I understand it was because God said in the Book of Isaiah “I will carry you as an eagle carries her young upon her back and bring you to me.” When the eagle, that magnificent bird, so associated with the Scottish Highlands and many other similar parts of the world, knows that her young one is ready to leave the nest, she pushes it out and naturally the fledgling is lost and confused with the new sensations and plummets to the ground. The eagle swoops down and brings it back to safety. The second time they try this, the chick is able to fly!

The Eagle or the Aquila in Latin, is also the name given to the Lectern or Reading Desk found in many churches, with the part that the Book rests on made in the shape of an eagle with outstretched wings. The eagle was the only bird which was able to look straight into the sun. It was therefore taken as the only fitting symbol for carrying the searchlight of “the Word of God”.

When life’s anxieties make us plummet in despair, God swoops down and carries us!

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40 v31.

**Arthur Priestly**

